

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 /082 W

-----001339 221424Z /45

P R 221330Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6394

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 2496

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINT RH

SUBJECT: UANC VICE-PRESIDENT RESIGNS

1. ACCORING TO REUTER DISPATCH CARRIED IN AUGUST 22 ZAMBIAN PRESS, DR ELLIOT GABELLAH, CICE-PRESIDENT OF MUZOREWA'S UNITED AFRICAN NATIONAL COUNCIL (UANC) RESIGNED AUGUST 21. GABELLAH REPORTEDLY TOLD REUTER HE IS LEAVING UNAC " IN ORDER TO AFFORD MYSELF THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK EFFECTIVELY FOR THE UNITY WHICH THE PEOPLE DESIRE. THE UNANC HAS FAILED TO INJECT INTO THE PEOPLE THE NECESSARY SENSE OF DIRECTION AND PURPOSE... I AM NOT LEAVING THE UNANC TO JOIN ANOTHER TRIBAL ORGANIZATION. THE ISSUES WE FACE ARE NOT TRIBAL BUT NATIONAL. THEY ARE NOT RADICAL BUT NATIONAL".

2. IN REACTION TO GABELLAH DEFECTION, BISHOP MUZOREWA REPORTEDLY REFUSED COMMENT UNTIL HE RECEIVED CONFIRMATION OF HIS RESIGNATION. IN LUSAK, UANC EXTERNAL
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AFFAIRS DIRECTOR GEOERGE NYANDORO CHARGED THAT GABELLAH ALONG WITH FORMER UANC MEMBERS MALIANGA AND CHIKOSI ARE ALL "IN CAHOOTS" WITH SMITH AND ZUPO IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE AN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT.

2. SITHOLE HAS RECENTLY GIVEN INDICATIONS TO REUTERS THAT HE MAY FORM A NEW ORGANIZATION INCLUDING THE INCREASING

NUMBER OF UANC DROPOUTS. ON SAME DAY AS GABELLAH RESIGNATION SITHOLE SAID", WE ARE TRYING TO GET VARIOUS POLITICAL GROUPS INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY AND INFLUENTIAL MEN HERE--BLACK, WHITE, ASIAN AND COLORED--TOGETHER TO SEE WHAT WE CAN DO TO SOLVE OUR PROBLEMS. WE WANT TO UNIFY OUR APPROACH REGARDLESS OF POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS TO WHICH WE BELONG" SITHOLE ADDED THAT A SERIES OF MEETINGS TO CREATE AN ORGANIZATION CAPABLE OF ADMINISTERING RHODESIA WOULD BEGIN IN SEPTEMBER.

4. COMMENT: IF IT TURNS OUT THAT GABELLEH AND OTHER UANC SENIOR OFFICIALS ARE ABANDONING MUZOREWA IN FAVOR OF SITHOLE, WE BELIEVE THIS SHOULD BE INTERPRETED AS AN INDICATION THAT SMITH IS LEANING STRONGLY TOWARDS SITHOLE AS HIS INSTRUMENT FOR AN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT. DEFECTION TO SITHOLE MAY REFLECT GABELLAH'S READING THAT THERE IS NO CHANCE OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN INITIATIVE SUCCEEDING AND THAT HIS ONLY OPTION IS TO SIDE WITH THE MAN WHO IS KEY TO AN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT. IT IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT WOULD FUND ROOM FOR HIM IN ITS PLANS FOR AN INDEPENDENT ZIMBABWE.

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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